

Environmental Humanities Workshop
Nexus Centre for Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research
Memorial University of Newfoundland

Workshop Schedule

The main workshop (the discussion of papers and associated events) will take place **on May 10th and 11th**. There will be a **student training day on May 9th** (see student participation below). **You should arrive May 9th and you can plan to leave May 12th**. If you wish to stay longer to sightsee in Newfoundland, that is great, but obviously it will be at your own expense, and you will have to follow Memorial's Travel Policy if you choose to do so (not a big deal – it just amounts to getting an online or travel agent's quote for what your flight would have cost had you flown on the set days for the workshop).

Intellectual Output

I am asking all participants to produce a short (3000-4500 word) piece of writing addressing the key workshop question of how to better insert environmental humanities perspectives in the policy realm and the political arena. We will also consider how to better disseminate our work to the public.

I recognize that workshop participants come from many different backgrounds and disciplinary traditions, with some operating in the realm of creative/artistic production. So, I don't really want to put a lot of prescriptive boundaries on your writing. You can be creative, you can produce a distillation of project work you have done, you can be theoretical, philosophical, or even statistical if you like. The idea is to really stretch out our thinking on the key issues with environmental humanities, and try to capture the interdisciplinary depth of the field.

These papers will be pre-circulated (likely via a password protected website or cloud drive) to all workshop participants, and to the students and/or members of the MUN community and general public who wish to participate.

Our proposed published output is to produce an edited collection and a co-authored piece addressing workshop themes. We can talk about our plans for this at the workshop.

To give people time to read the papers, we should set a reasonable due date that allows people time to write and participants time to read the papers. I am going to set **Friday April 27th as the due date for the papers**.

We will also be asking willing participants to contribute blogs for the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) site after the workshop, and possibly generate audio content for podcast during the workshop (I need to think about how that will work).

Workshop Schedule and Format

For each of the sessions, workshop authors will be asked to present a short overview of their written work, amplifying and extending the material that participants will have read in the written version. Then we will open the floor for discussion and commentary. We are looking at discussing 8-9 papers per day, so most sessions will include 3 papers. We will also have a brief meeting to discuss disseminating results

at the end of day 2. It will be a bit packed, but I think the two days offers enough time for a good discussion.

On the Thursday night (May 10th) I am organizing a keynote panel, hopefully dealing with climate change and energy policy locally. Friday night is the workshop dinner.

I will be in touch with a detailed workshop schedule in March. At that time you can let me know if your title has changed from the original SSHRC application.

Student Participation

I have currently budgeted for 4 student travel grants of \$1300 each so that students from outside Newfoundland can attend the workshop. The Labrador Institute has generously agreed to fund 2 students from their campus to come. I have applied for similar travel grants for 3 additional students to come from outside Newfoundland and Labrador, and 3 students to attend from MUN's Grenfell Campus.

If the latter applications are successful there will be travel grants available for 12 students, which is fantastic (we may not get everything we asked for in the final funding applications). **Students should arrive May 8th so that they can participate in the training day on May 9th, and plan to depart May 12th when the workshop is over.**

I may list the grants as open competitive funding applications, but I will also be willing to take recommendations if you know of a fantastic student who would contribute a lot to the workshop. Please recall that, if you have funding to bring a student you are more than welcome to do so.

Travel and Accommodation

Given that Newfoundland is an island, the airlines don't exactly offer a lot of budget options. As May is the beginning of the tourist season, you would be advised to book flights in by the end of March at the very latest. WestJet and Air Canada are the main carriers that fly here (I think Porter gave up on us).

The workshop hotel is the Murray Premises <http://murraypremiseshotel.com/>

This is a historic hotel in downtown St. John's that is near the waterfront, with close walking access to Water Street and Duckworth Streets (with lots of restaurants, bars, shops, etc.).

I have booked a block of rooms here at a special rate of \$199 per night. I am just getting in touch with the hotel manager about the rooms and will forward instructions about booking shortly.

Expenses and Administrative Matters

For invitees to the workshop (the names on the original grant application), we can cover flight, accommodation (3 nights), catered meals, and transportation to and from Memorial. Due to budget constraints, we do not have an allocation for ground transportation to and from the airport and meals we are not providing directly, so you will have to cover that out of your own research budgets (should be minimal in most cases). We do have money for taxis for back and forth between the university and the hotel.

Memorial's travel policy can be viewed here: <http://www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=284>

Make sure you save all receipts. You don't need to save boarding passes any more if you have another receipt that confirms your presence at the event, though it is never a bad idea to include them.

You will need to fill out a Travel Request Form in advance of arriving

http://www.mun.ca/finance/forms/Travel_Request.pdf

After the workshop you will need to fill out an electronic travel claim form that can be found here:

https://www.mun.ca/finance/travel/electronic_travel.php

We cannot do travel advances for external invitees, though I will confirm whether it may be possible to purchase flights directly from the grant through the university travel agent, LeGrows. Please contact me if getting reimbursed after the workshop is not ideal and I will see what I can do.

When you do book your flight, it would be helpful if you could send me the cost so I can make sure we are staying within budget.

Possible Field Trip

We could organize an informal field trip on the Saturday after the workshop. It would be very inexpensive if we relied on the goodwill of local participants who have cars, and some pooled money for taxis, to at least get everyone out to Cape Spear. There is also spectacular hiking on the East Coast Trail within walking distance of the hotel. In terms of local attractions, The Rooms (the provincial museum) is really interesting, there are endless opportunities to see live music downtown, and the restaurants scene continues to offer a lot of interesting cuisine. Closer to the time I will send you links and advice about cool things to see and do in the area.

For those contemplating staying longer and making a trip out of it, Newfoundland is a pretty remarkable place to explore. Unfortunately getting around by solar powered trains is not possible, so you will want to book a rental car ASAP so you can get from point A to B. There are tons of places to go, but I can recommend the Bonavista Peninsula and Gros Morne National Park as prime destinations. I am happy to give more specific advice to those who wish. Watch out for moose on the road.

One again, If you are planning on staying longer than the workshop dates, please make sure you get a quote for a flight covering only the days of the workshop. You will be reimbursed for the quoted flight, so long as it does not exceed the cost of your actual flight.

Newfoundland Weather in May

It could be sunny and beautiful. That would be nice. It could be snowy, rainy, sleety, and slushy at that time of year as well. My personal favourite is the ice pellets that drive against your face and feel like a thousand little pinpricks. Recall that we are not having the workshop outside. But do be prepared for anything if you are planning to go outside. At that time of year temperatures are usually cool (8-10 degrees Celsius) and sometimes below zero at night. Check long range forecasts before you come, but expect it to be cool.